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INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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EUR/WE: ACARSON
AF/C: KAISTON (INFO)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115014

ROME FOR EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL PGOV RW BY FR BE CG MOPS
SUBJECT: MEETING ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI - WORKING LEVEL DEMARCHE
REF: (A) 94 STATE 111391

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

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2. AF/C DIRECTOR ARLENE RENDER AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR REED FENDRICK MET FRIDAY WITH THE AFRICA WATCHERS FROM THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN EMBASSIES TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI. BELGIAN DESK OFFICER AND AF/C DESKOFF ALSO ATTENDED. ON RWANDA, THE POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL WERE MADE; ON BURUNDI, THE POINTS BELOW IN PARA 3 WERE CONVEYED. AMBASSADOR RENDER ASKED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM TO URGENTLY PASS THE USG'S CONCERNS ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI TO THEIR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES. SHE NOTED THAT A/S MOOSE PLANNED TO MEET WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM ON TUESDAY, MAY 3 TO DISCUSS THE TWO CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE POSITIONS OF THE THREE GOVERNMENTS ON THE CRISIS, IN ORDER TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIONS, IF POSSIBLE. (THIS MEETING WILL SUPPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING FROM EMBASSIES PARIS AND BRUSSELS).

3. BURUNDI TALKING POINTS FOR THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS:
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DESPITE THE RELATIVE CALM IN BURUNDI (PUNCTUATED BY THE APRIL 29 OPERATION IN KAMENGE), THE COUNTRY REMAINS UNSTABLE AND HIGHLY POLARIZED ALONG ETHNIC LINES. IN ORDER TO BOLSTER BURUNDI AND HELP INSULATE IT FROM THE TURBULENCE IN NEIGHBORING RWANDA, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST REMAIN ENGAGED. WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BURUNDI MAINTAIN CALM, STRENGTHEN THE NASCENT DEMOCRACY, AND BEGIN THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. WE SEEK FRENCH AND BELGIAN SUPPORT ON A RANGE OF INITIATIVES, AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- O -- CONTINUE THE PUBLIC AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN CALLING FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.
- O -- ENCOURAGE THE INTERIM PRESIDENT AND OTHER MODERATES IN THE GOVERNMENT TO REASSERT THEIR FULL AUTHORITY. THIS WILL HELP FILL THE POWER VACUUM AND MARGINALIZE EXTREMISTS.
- O -- SUPPORT THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S EFFORTS TO HELP THE BURUNDIANS PEACEFULLY RESOLVE THE THORNY LEGAL ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL

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SUCCESSION.

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O -- SUPPORT THE OAU'S SMALL 47-PERSON OBSERVER MISSION.

O -- RESPOND TO THE HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY, AND FOCUS LONGER TERM ASSISTANCE EFFORTS ON
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DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE, DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY, CIVIC EDUCATION, AND INSTITUTION BUILDING.

O -- EXAMINE WAYS TO REFORM THE BURUNDI MILITARY TO MAKE IT A NATIONAL ARMY OVER TIME.

O -- THE MILITARY MUST BE RETRAINED TO ACCEPT AND RESPECT CIVIL AUTHORITY. WE WELCOME EFFORTS BY THE FRENCH, BELGIANS, AND OTHERS TO IMPROVE CIVIL/MILITARY RELATIONS AND PROMOTE MILITARY REFORM, FOCUSING ON ADHERENCE TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND ACCEPTANCE OF CIVILIAN CONTROL.

O -- EXAMINE CLOSELY THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO CREATE A LARGE "REPUBLICAN GUARD" OR EXPANDED GENDARMERIE.

O -- NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CHANNEL ANY INITIATIVES ON BURUNDI OR RWANDA THROUGH THE OAU OR THE UN. WE MUST AVOID UNILATERAL OR BILATERAL REGIONAL MILITARY INTERVENTION THAT WOULD CAUSE HARM.

O -- MOBUTU CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO MEDDLE IN THE SUBREGION IN THE GUISE OF "PEACEMAKER" IN ORDER TO "REHABILITATE" HIS IMAGE. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK TO LIMIT ZAIRE'S ROLE IN THE REGION, SINCE MOBUTU IS NOT LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL AND SINCE ZAIRE HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS TO CONTEND WITH.

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4. BUJUMBURA, MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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